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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 27, 2006

Army golf course greens fees changing April 1

To ensure quality golf program, fees must meet DA requirements

HEIDELBERG, Germany- Helping ensure Army golf courses stay on par with those in the civilian sector, Installation Management Command-Europe Morale Welfare and Recreation is scheduled to adjust greens fees April 1.

Fee adjustments at Army Golf Courses will mean increased greens fees for some golfers. But according to an IMCOM-Europe MWR spokesperson, they are necessary to meet Department of the Army minimum standards as part of the corporate strategy for performance improvement.

“Golf is a program area that requires a relatively high level of revenue to adequately operate and meet or exceed customer expectations,” said Dave Mattingly, IMCOM-Europe MWR Business Programs chief. “The Army golf goal is to achieve quality playing conditions comparable to mid- to high-level municipal golf courses.

Mattingly said greens fees at golf courses across the Army have not kept pace with the costs necessary to maintain and invest in the program. Low greens fees at some Army courses have had an impact on golf course and clubhouse conditions.

“Standard greens fees are being established to ensure fairness, consistency and common levels of service across the Army for all golf courses,” he said.

Daily and weekend greens fees will now be the same at all 18-hole Army golf courses in Europe. The greatest increase will be \$4 for daily and \$6 for weekend greens fees; E6 and above will now pay \$17 greens fees on a weekday and \$23 on a weekend. Junior enlisted (E1-E5) will see their greens fees go up only \$2, to \$13 on weekdays and \$17 on weekends.

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Golf fees increase

Prices for youth golfers will go down. Golfers age 16 years of age and younger will pay \$8 daily greens fees and \$10 weekend greens fees under the new fee structure – down from the current \$11 and \$15.

For regular golfers who want to save by paying annual greens fees, prices will increase by \$5 to \$250 for junior enlisted (E1-5); the annual family fee for junior enlisted will be \$350. Annual greens fees for golfers E6 and above will be \$550, or a \$750 family fee.

“The corporate strategy policy requires that Europe region golf courses charge fees that comply with minimum standards within two years of the policy publication in July 2006,” Mattingly said. “We will work with garrisons to increase prices annually toward these necessary green fees minimums as set by Department of the Army.”

Policy guidelines mandate that fees must rise annually to keep pace with increased operating costs, said Mattingly. According to the policy, increasing fees on an annual basis is a more sound business practice and more equitable for golf patrons than raising fees infrequently, which often requires a much larger increase.

The Army has three 18-hole golf courses in Europe: Heidelberg Golf Course; Rheinblick Golf Course in Wiesbaden; and the Stuttgart Golf Course. The Rolling Hills Golf Course in Baumholder and the Whispering Pines Golf Course in Bamberg are both Nine-hole golf courses.

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The U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Europe (IMCOM-Europe) is one of six regional offices to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMCOM-Europe is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from driver's licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMCOM-Europe is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.